

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1921

## POLICEMEN IN ARMOR IMMUNE TO BULLETS

Dr. Boshford Dean, Metropolitan Museum Expert, Says Scheme is Practical.

(By Marian Storm in New York Evening Post.)

With policemen as precious as they are, and bandits as quick on the trigger, it would seem only economical to do all we can to preserve policemen. Yet Omaha has beaten New York in providing them with armor.



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ing them with armor. The uninformed have laughed delightedly at this strange enterprise. It is perfectly practicable, would not be very expensive, and would afford the officer who has to arrest heavily armed criminals a fair chance.

Two authorities more learned in this matter than Dr. Boshford, dean of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Dr. Guy Otis Brewster, inventor of the Brewster body shield, could not be found; and they both agree that the question of armor for the police is a considerable one.

It must be understood that the project is quite different from that of putting soldiers into armor—a step that was urged and opposed with intense feeling throughout the last three years of the war—because a policeman would have to wear his shield or suit only a short time, not indefinitely, as the necessities of the battlefield demand.

"The improvement in ballistic alloys has been so great that it would not be hard to make a policeman immune even to a machine gun. His armor, since it would be worn only a little while, could be made of the requisite strength to resist the usual 2,700-feet-a-second projectile," said Dr. Dean, who, besides being curator of armor at the museum, was during the war major of ordnance in

charge of the armor unit, equipment section, engineering division, and was chairman of the committee on helmets and body armor of the engineering division of the National Research Council at Washington. His book, "Helmets and Body Armor in Modern Warfare," is the present-day authority on the subject.

### Heavy Armor for Raising.

"The soldiers in this war, just as they did in earlier wars, threw their armor away when they went into action because they found it cumbersome, and preferred greater risks and more freedom. But the policeman would not have to leap shell-holes and trenches. In a suit of armor he could advance upon criminals barricaded in a building, or pursue them, shooting from a motor car, with perfect safety and little hindrance. In comparison with the soldier, the policeman wages war luxuriously. His armor can be brought for him in a truck to the place where he will have to don it, in cases where the raid or arrest has been planned beforehand. A light armor, suitable for warding off revolver bullets or dagger thrusts from vital part of the body, could easily be worn all the time he was on duty.

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um, and other substances, rendering it of almost any hardness and resistance desired. Thanks to the thinness of modern metal, a pistol-proof armor reaching to the knees could be made to weigh only two pounds, and every police department should have an outfit of these and a few of the heavy complete suits. Improvements would constantly be made, once they started the plan. Why, during the war we increased the efficiency of the American helmet twenty per cent, to thirty per cent, in one year. The end is not yet in sight of the improvement of thin plates for ballistic uses.

"But why don't you talk to the one man living who knows how it feels to stand in armor before a machine gun in action?" asked Dr. Dean.

So Dr. Guy Otis Brewster has the floor to tell his tale.

### Machine-Gun Fire.

"It was seventeen below zero, that day over at Picatinny Arsenal. I put on my armor, walked out in the frozen lake and told the gunner to spray the bullets over me thoroughly," said Dr. Guy Otis Brewster, who, as any one may see, emerged from this adventure alive and enthusiastic. The sensation, he insists, was mild. Receiving the bullets at full-service velocity in an armor weighing only forty pounds, he felt about on the whole the shock he would experience if struck by a sledge hammer. He gave no sign of the impact.

Dr. Brewster is an armorer of wide experience. He invented the Brewster body shield, which was used to some extent during the war. He and his colleagues perfected, by their scientific combination of old and new armor which, according to the tests made, was actually proof. A hole was drilled in it, to be sure, when it was put up against a stump and shot at for some time in the same spot, but the case of a soldier or policeman advancing toward a machine gun is quite different. A shot would rarely hit him several times in the same location.

### Gunners Quailed.

Bitter cold as it was that day in the winter of 1918, he put on a suit of steel alloy and stood up before a machine gun on Lake Picatinny. The gunners were red-faced and perspiring. They dreaded to shoot at Dr. Brewster. They had never had such a target.

"I tell you I can't do it," cried the first marksman, and his shots went wild.

"Then," related Dr. Brewster, "they put a calm Scotchman at the gun. He had a deep personal affection for his weapon, and if it had missed anything he shot at his wife would have been crashed. He hit me with decision. He played the spray of bullets back and forth across my iron front.

"I felt a rocking sensation, as if I were in a hurricane, and bent forward to resist the impact of the steel but there was no shock—not even discomfort. It is hard to stand your ground before a machine gun only because the bullets push you back. Except for the tension of excitement, I wasn't a bit the worse for my experiment. I urged the rest of

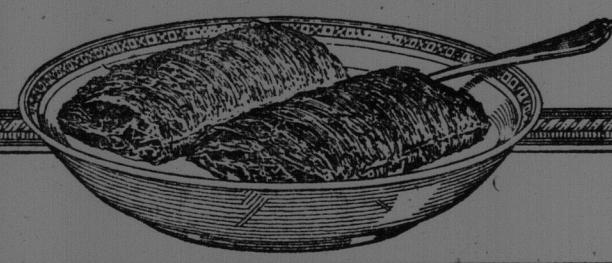
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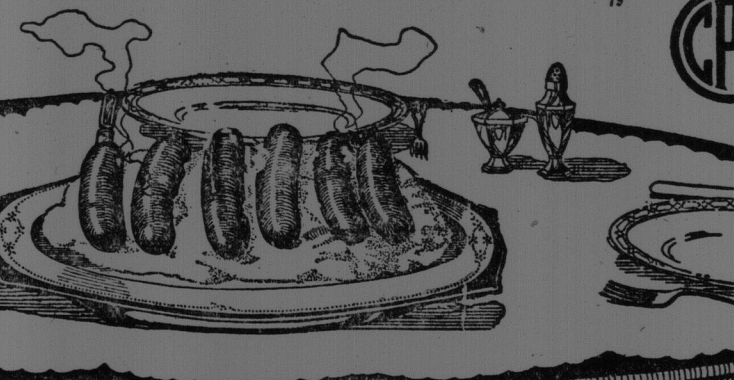
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## MUTT AND JEFF—MUTT'S STILL TRYING TO COP A POLITICAL JOB

—By "BUD" FISHER

